

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims on formal grounds, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and further consideration and allowance of the application, as amended is earnestly solicited.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 26-50 have already been allowed and Claims 1-16 would be considered allowable if amended in formal respects to overcome the rejection, as set forth under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph, as detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

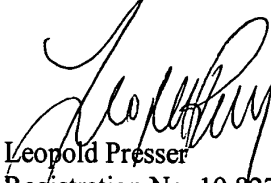
Furthermore, applicants gratefully note the Examiner's indication that previously non-elected Claims 42-50 have been rejoined and allowed, along with allowed Claims 26-41.

Accordingly, in order to clearly and unambiguously place this application into order for allowance, applicants have implemented the required formal amendments, as requested by the Examiner, thereby placing the application into full order for allowance, and concurrently reserving the right to file a divisional application in due course at non-elected Claims 17-21, which have been withdrawn from consideration.

Accordingly, inasmuch as all of the amendments are in conformance with the Examiner's requirements and have fully met the grounds of rejection set forth in the Office Action, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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